

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 EB-07 SCA-01 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4416

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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MEXICO FOR RFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR EC

SUBJECT: F/V ANNA MARIA - POSSIBLE

COMPLAINT ON FISHING LICENSE

REF: GUAYAQUIL 0212 (NOTAL)

1. THE F/V ANNA MARIA OF ZAPATA OCEAN RESOURCES RECEIVED FISHING LICENSE JANUARY 7, 1976 BUT REQUIRED COME INTO SALINAS ON JANUARY 16 BECAUSE OF DAMAGE TO REDUCTION GEAR. REPLACEMENT PART FLOWN DOWN FROM MIAMI, REPAIRS WERE EFFECTED AND VESSEL PUT BACK TO SEA ON FEBRUARY 5 WITH RESULTANT LOSS THREE WEEKS FISHING TIME.#

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION GIVEN US BY AGENT VINCENT YU LEE, CAPTAIN JORDAN SAUSA OF F/V ANNA MARIA APPLIED TO DIRECCION GENERAL DE PESCA (DGP) FOR 21 DAY EXTENSION OF LICENSE BECAUSE OF FORCE MAJEUR TIME IN PORT OF SALINAS CAPTAIN WILSON ARRAYO BASED ON AUTHORITY IN ARTICLE 29 OF FISHING LAW REFUSED GRANT EXTENSION.

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3. WE INQUIRED AS DGP BASIS FOR REFUSAL OF EXTENSION AND LEARNED

THAT ARROYO'S DECISION BASED ON REPORT FROM NAVAL ENGINEER LUIS TORRES NAVARETTE WHO MADE SURVEY FOR DGP. TORRES' OPINION WAS THAT DAMAGE TO REDUCTION GEAR CAUSED BY NEGLECT WHEN TELEGRAPH LEVER MOVED SUDDENLY FROM "FULL AHEAD" TO "FULL ASTERN." EXPLANATION ALLEGEDLY CAME FROM CAPITAL SAUSA. ON BASIS OF THIS REPORT ARROYO REJECTED APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION.

4. AGENT EXPRESSED OPINION THAT CAPITAN ARROYO OF DGP SEIZED ON THIS PRETEXT BECAUSE OF PRESSURES FROM LOCAL FISHERMEN (REFTTEL) TO REDUCE NUMBERS OF LICENSES ISSUED.

5. COMMENT: WE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT IN SIMILAR CASES IN PAST EXTENSIONS ROUTINELY GRANTED WHEN SHIPS IN PORT FOR REPAIRS AND THERE SEEMS TO BE NO REAL REASON WHY EXTENSION SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN GRANTED THIS TIME UNLESS OPINION EXPRESSED PARA 4 CORRECT OR ARROYO TRYING FORCE VESSEL GET A SECOND LICENSE. BUMBLEBEE BRAND TUNA PEOPLE (CASTLE AND COOKE) IN TOWN AT MOMENT AND THEY SAY FISHING NOT GOOD AT MOMENT AND ATTRIBUTE IT TO COLD WATER CURRENT SHIFTS OFF COAST.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY DISCUSS SITUATION WITH QUITO OFFICIALS SEE IF ARROYO DECISION CAN BE REVERSED. IT SEEMS TO ME LOSS OF FISHING TIME AND COST OF REPAIRS PLUS COST OF MATER KULA AND LICENSE BURDENSOME ENOUGH WITHOUT FLIMSY PRETEXT THAT MASTER OF VESSEL IS NEGLIGENT IN MANNER OF CARING FOR HIS VESSEL.
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